

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new term! I hope you all had a relaxing Christmas break and a great start to 2015. This term our exciting topic is **Violent Volcanoes!** This will be incorporated across most subjects, using it to encourage learning and inspire new interests about the world we live in. Our class assembly on this subject will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015. All Year 3 parents and carers are welcome!

As **historians** we will be studying all about volcanoes; what they are, how they occur, the effects they have and more. To deepen the children's learning we will also be visiting the **Natural History Museum**, which has a newly refurbished, exciting gallery all about volcanoes. This trip will happen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> February (TBC).

**Home learning is so important:** Reading at home with a parent has been shown to help raise the reading levels of children and therefore finding 10 quality minutes to read would be a benefit to all. Other suggestions relating to our topic: make a volcano, make a lava lamp, and do a job description volcanologist.

Homework will be set on a Thursday for completion on the following Thursday. If you have any difficulties accessing the homework please let me know.

During **English** this term we will be studying the story of Pompeii and what a volcano did to a town and the surrounding areas. We will use this story to further our narrative knowledge, our storytelling skills and continue to apply this in our writing. We will look at explanation texts and how to write instructions. Spelling, grammar and punctuation will also be a big feature in lessons to help the children's writing progress further.

During **Maths** this term we will continue our learning of place value, measuring lengths, time and money, and understanding 2-D and 3-D shape, and fractions. We will be learning more of our times tables as well as developing our mental maths.

As **Scientists** we will be learning about different types of rocks and linking to what we're learning about volcanoes. As well as building our own violent volcano.

In **Religious Education** we will look at the rituals in our own lives and in the lives of others. For example, having faith in a higher being and going to a place of worship. In **Physical education** we will be developing our skills in various invasion games. We have swimming on a Monday and P.E. on a Wednesday. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit on these days.

In **Computing** we will be learning how to be networked, how to be engineers and to understand features and diagnostics about the internet.

Please don't hesitate to arrange a meeting to talk to any of us to raise any further questions or queries. Teachers are in the playground at least 5 minutes before the bell in the morning, but if you would like a longer conversation then do come and see teachers at the end of the day or arrange an appointment.

Miss Newton, Mrs Reeves and Mrs Simpson